

PETER J. ROSKAM

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1306

May 19, 2017

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The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

I am writing to follow up on our conversation regarding the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This is completely unacceptable and a serious error in the allocation of resources. I have requested that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies provide \$300 million in the Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations bill, and I respectfully request that you do the same.

The Great Lakes are truly a national treasure. The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world, holding roughly 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply and 90 percent of the United States' fresh water supply. The Lakes are also an economic driver that support jobs, commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism for millions of people across the country.

More than a century of environmental damage has taken a significant toll on the Great Lakes, which the GLRI is helping to correct. Since the initiative was launched in 2010, GLRI funds have been used to support over 3,000 restoration projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitat, clean up environmentally-impaired Areas of Concern, fight invasive species, and prevent beach closings.

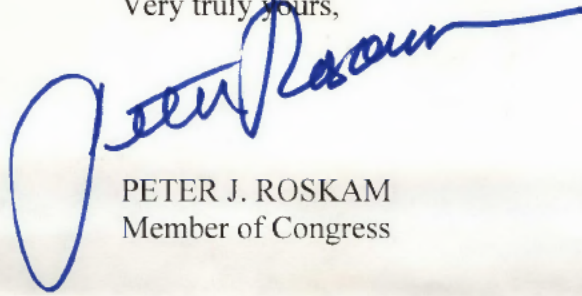
The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is showing real and measurable results, but there is still a great deal of work to do. The Great Lakes Basin is vulnerable to various pollutants and invasive species, which threaten the health of the Great Lakes. For example, in 2014 a toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie forced 400,000 residents in the Toledo area to go without home water service for three days. While the GLRI has prioritized monitoring efforts, which help drinking water treatment plant operators and beach managers minimize health impacts associated with these toxic algal blooms, more must be done to better understand and prevent these algal blooms in the future.

The federal government commits significant resources each year to address the challenges the Great Lakes face. In particular, GLRI resources have supplemented agency budgets to fund

coordinated efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, and we must ensure that this important work continues. Halting this commitment would reverse years of progress, dramatically reduce the GLRI's impact, and jeopardize the environmental and economic health of the region.

To that end, I urge you to continue this vital investment in the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes by providing full funding for the GLRI and to reverse course from the Administration's budget proposal on this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Roskam", with a large, stylized initial "P" on the left.

PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress